

# Independent Citizenship for Married Women



**T**HERE is a movement in many civilized nations for independent citizenship for married women. The conviction that the citizenship of married women ought to be a genuine right which cannot be taken away from her or granted to her without her full knowledge, consent, or wish is not confined to legislative proceedings or resolutions in this country. In April, 1922, a bill was introduced in the French senate providing that the French woman who marries an alien retains her French citizenship unless she makes formal declaration that she prefers to take the nationality of her husband. In England a bill, which 59 women's organizations of the British Empire heartily indorsed, dealing with independent citizenship of married women has lately been brought before the house of commons. It provides for the restoration of their British citizenship to British women who have married aliens.

The International Council of Women, the largest of the international organizations of women in representing the greatest number of countries, at its meeting at Copenhagen two years ago expressed in a resolution the belief of women of many countries that the citizenship of married women should be upon an independent basis and their sincere conviction that legislative bodies will soon come to recognize the justice and common sense of the women's stand in the matter.

In this country the principle of independent citizenship for married women has been indorsed by both the Republican and Democratic parties and was incorporated in their 1920 platforms. In congress there is pending a bill (H. R. 12022) relative to the naturalization and citizenship of married women. It is indorsed by the American Association of University Women, National Federation of Business and Professional Women, Council of Jewish Women, General Federation of Women's Clubs, National League of Women Voters, National Women's Trade Union league and the Women's Christian Temperance union.

The Carnegie foundation made a special investigation to determine the attitude of various judges exercising jurisdiction in naturalization cases, and in that study replies from 350 judges were 2 to 1 in favor of naturalizing women as individuals, and practically 2 to 1 in favor of allowing an American woman to retain her citizenship regardless of marriage to an alien.

Representative John L. Cable of Ohio is the author of the bill now pending in the house. In committee of the whole the other day, Mr. Cable made a speech in support of his bill. Following are some of the points he brought out:

"A woman's citizenship should not be

determined by her marital status. Justice and common sense should permit a married woman to act upon her own wishes and qualifications for naturalization rather than those of her husband.

"A natural-born American must wait 21 years before she or he is permitted to participate in the government of this country. A foreign-born man or single woman who comes to this country and resides here continuously for five years, if he qualifies before the courts, may become naturalized and acquire the right of suffrage. But a foreign-born woman who comes to this country one day automatically becomes an American citizen the next if she marries an American citizen or if her husband becomes naturalized. With one day's period of residence, as compared to the natural-born American's 21 years of residence, she acquires the same rights, privileges, and benefits in and to our government. She is not required to be able to speak the English language, to know of our customs and laws, our Constitution, and to be attached to the principles of our government; she does not even have to renounce allegiance to her foreign ruler and take the oath of allegiance to Uncle Sam.

"Citizenship in this country should not depend on the marriage status, but should be based upon loyalty to our country and a knowledge of its language and laws, as well as a wish or desire to become an American citizen. On the other hand, under our present law a married alien woman who may have resided in this country for many years and who has learned to love America, who knows our language, our customs, our laws, cannot become an American citizen except by the naturalization of her husband. Why should her citizenship depend upon the will of her husband?

"The bill under consideration repeals that section of the present law which provides 'Any woman who is now or who may hereafter be married to a citizen of the United States and who might herself be lawfully naturalized shall be deemed a citizen,' and in its place provides that when an alien woman marries an American, or when her husband becomes naturalized, she does not automatically become an American citizen, but if she also desires to become an American citizen she may do so by being naturalized through a shortened process.

"The present law permitting the naturalization of foreign born deals directly with the husband and father and gives the wife and mother but secondary consideration. The husband is the one who is educated. He is the one who must learn to speak the English language, to know our country, its Constitution, and laws. He is the one who must be attached to the principles of our nation. He only

renounces allegiance to his foreign ruler, and in most cases he only appears in open court and declares on oath that he will support and defend the Constitution. The husband is the one who must be fitted and prepared for his part as an American citizen. Even the children are sent to public schools, but what of the wife? The true process of naturalization should include the education of the mother of this immigrant family. The mothers' influence and guidance would be lost to the family without the education that naturalization proceedings provide and require. My bill is intended to permit this wife and mother to learn something about the country. She is the one who should guide these children and ought to have the same privilege of an education as the father.

"Under the present law 'any American woman who marries a foreigner shall take the nationality of her husband.' This bill repeals that provision of law in line with the Republican and Democratic national platforms. The Republican platform in part provides: 'An American woman resident in the United States shall not lose her citizenship by marriage to an alien.'

"And the Democratic platform dealing with this subject advocates: 'Federal legislation which shall insure that American women resident in the United States, but married to aliens, shall retain their American citizenship.'

"In my opinion the rich American woman who marries a title and lives abroad should cease to have the privileges and benefits of an American citizen, and under my bill special provision is made that if she resides continuously for two years in the country of which her husband is a citizen or subject, or resides continuously for five years abroad, she is presumed to have ceased to be an American citizen.

"But there are many American girls who marry foreign-born and who continue to reside in this country. Their loyalty and fidelity is with the United States. Since the nineteenth amendment grants equal suffrage to women, so also should they have equal rights with reference to citizenship. An American citizen who marries an alien girl still retains his citizenship; so also should the American girl who marries the alien man. We should not relinquish our rights to legislate or withdraw our country's protection from these natural-born American women; their personal and property rights should be determined by our laws; and we should not by legislative action surrender this right to any foreign nation.

"The purpose of the bill is to place citizenship on the highest plane possible. It is a privilege and not a right. Participation in our government and the protection by our country should not be determined in the case of married women solely by a marriage ceremony."

**His Reward.**  
"John Jurdan is dead at the age of eighty-two," said Timrod Tarpy. "For many years he walked quietly along the straight and narrow way, harming nobody, running over no one, shoving none out of it, and now and then pulling some weaker brother back into the path. He paid for everything when he bought it, minded his own business, and was not inquisitive about the affairs of others. He never gossiped and always did his duty as he saw it. Consequently, a good many people suspected him of playing a smooth game of some sort, and the rest regarded him as a slow-going old fogey with no great amount of sense, and to prove it called him 'Uncle Johnny' during the last thirty-five or forty years of his life."—Kansas City Star.

**Cuticura for Sore Hands.**  
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**Rheostat for Vacuum Tubes.**  
Rheostats for controlling the current in vacuum tubes and constructed for mounting on panels varying from one-eighth to one-half inch in thickness, are now being manufactured by a Milwaukee (Wis.) concern, says an illustrated article in Popular Mechanics Magazine. Two styles, one with vernier adjustment for detector tubes, and the other for amplifier tubes, are available, both designed for an operating range from zero to four ohms.

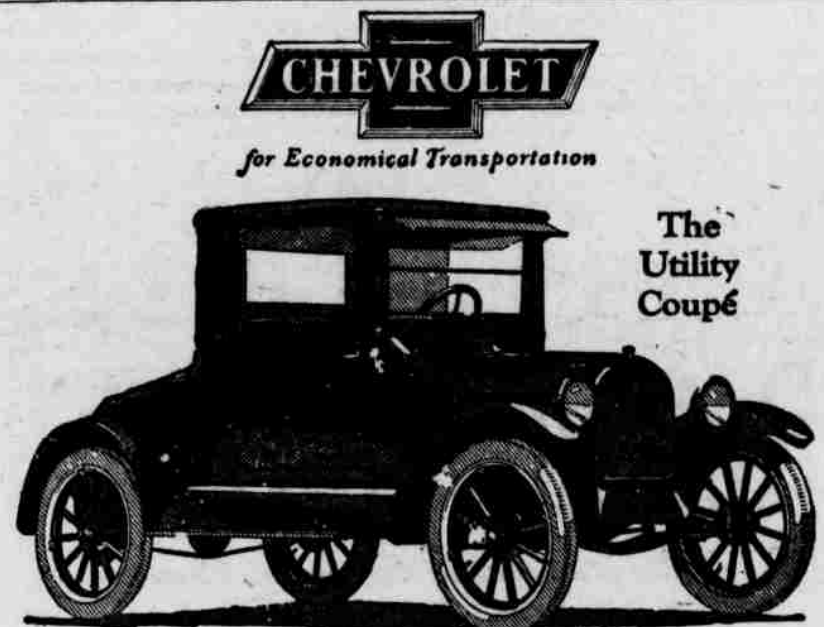
**Pertinent Question.**  
The Princess Bibesco was more than usually brilliant at a reception she gave in Washington in honor of her mother, Mrs. Asquith. Apropos of the 1922 fashions, the princess said:  
"Why is it that, the more a girl loves clothes, the less clothes she wears?"

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